

Message Text

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71

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SPC-03

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-10 SS-15 STR-08

CEA-02 AGR-20 DODE-00 PA-03 USIA-15 PRS-01 DRC-01

/177 W

----- 025575

R 051600Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5070

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 1355

EO 11652 XGDS

TAGS: EAGR/ETRD/EI

SUBJ: IRISH SUPPORT OF CAP

SUMMARY: IRISH DIPLOMAT SAYS THAT DUBLIN WILL DEFEND ALL ASP-
ECTS OF CAP VIGOROUSLY, EVEN TO THE POINT OF IRRATIONALITY.
HE VIEWED AS DEFENSIVE TACTIC, HOWEVER, FRENCH PRESSURE TO
APPLY CAP TO SOYBEANS.
END SUMMARY

1. ON OCT 3, WE HAD LONG GENERAL TALK WITH EAMONN GALLAGHER,
NEW ASST SEC IN CHARGE OF FONOFF ECONOMIC DIV. PURPOSE WAS TO
INTRODUCE DEPT'S NEW OFFICE DIRECTOR FOR NE, BILL BUELL.

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DURING VISIT, WE MADE APPOINTMENT FOR ANOTHER CALL ON GALLAGHER,

SAYING WE HAD JUST RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS TO URGE THAT CAP NOT BE APPLIED TO SOYBEANS.

2. GALLAGHER ASKED: "YOU'RE GOING AFTER THE CAP AGAIN, ARE YOU?" HIS TONE WAS LIGHT, AND HIS REACTION WAS NOT INTENDED TO REPRESENT FORMAL IRISH ATTITUDE. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT HE WAS REFLECTING, IN PURPOSELY OVERSTATED MANNER, BASIC IRISH FEELINGS. HE WENT ON, WITH LITTLE PROMPTING, TO SAY THAT IRISH WOULD OPPOSE ANY ATTEMPT TO TORPEDO CAP, WHETHER IN WORD OR DEED. US AND BRITAIN, HE OBSERVED, ALWAYS MAKE POINT OF GIVING ASSURANCES THAT THEY ACCEPT CAP IN PRINCIPLE, WHILE IN PRACTICE PRESSING FOR MEASURES THAT WOULD MAKE IT MEANINGLESS. BUT HIGH AGRICULTURAL PRICES WERE VITAL TO IRELAND, AND CAP WAS ESSENTIAL TO MAINTAIN THEM.

3. WE SAID THAT IRISH AND US INTERESTS ON THIS SUBJECT DID NOT SEEM TO BE IN BASIC CONFLICT, SINCE IRELAND PRODUCES MAINLY CATTLE AND DAIRY PRODUCTS OF WHICH US IN A NET IMPORTER. GALLAGHER AGREED, BUT SAID "IRELAND IS NOW PART OF THE CLUB," AND ONE CANNOT TALK ABOUT IRISH INTERESTS WITHOUT CONSIDERING THOSE OF OTHER EC MEMBERS. DAIRY PRODUCTS WERE IMPORTANT TO IRELAND, BUT GRAIN WAS IMPORTANT TO FRANCE. THE CLUB COULD NOT BE DIVIDED.

4. WE ASKED ABOUT IRISH ATTITUDE ON CITRUS, AS ANOTHER EXAMPLE. GALLAGHER REPLIED THAT, OF COURSE, IT WAS ABSURD, AS EVERYONE KNEW, FOR THE COMMUNITY TO RESTRICT COMPETITIVE CITRUS FRUITS FROM SPAIN, MIDDLE EAST, AND THE US. NEVERTHELESS, IRELAND WOULD ALSO SUPPORT ITALY'S INTERESTS IN CITRUS. "DO NOT EXPECT US TO BE RATIONAL YET," HE SAID. "MAYBE WE CAN AFFORD TO BE RATIONAL IN TEN YEARS, WHEN OUR IRISH ECONOMY IS LESS DEPENDENT ON AGRICULTURE" FOR NOW, HE CONTINUED, FARMERS ARE MUCH TOO LARGE A PART OF IRISH ECONOMY. IRELAND DID NOT HAVE A CHANCE TO INDUSTRIALIZE UNDER ENGLISH RULE, OR IN YEARS IMMEDIATELY AFTER INDEPENDENCE. FURTHER, IRELAND'S PRIMARY MARKET FOR ITS AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS WAS BRITAIN, AND BRITAIN KEPT PRICES LOW. NATURALLY, BRITISH WERE NOW COMPLAINING. DUBLIN UNDERSTOOD THEIR PROBLEM AND WOULD "GRIEVE" FOR THEM AS IT PUT ITS MONEY IN THE BANK.

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5. WE SAID THAT WE WERE GLAD TO HAVE THIS FRANK DISCUSSION, BUT WE ASSUMED GALLAGHER WAS NOT TALKING SPECIFICALLY ABOUT SOYBEANS. FIRSTLY, IT WAS NOT US POLICY TO ATTACK THE CAP, AND WE COULD HARDLY BE ACCUSED OF DOING SO WHEN WE SIMPLY ASKED THAT IT NOT BE APPLIED TO A NEW PRODUCT. WE ADDED THAT WE DID NOT THINK IT WAS USEFUL TO COMPARE US AND UK POSITIONS IN DISCUSSION OF SOYBEANS. OUR POSITION HAD TO DO WITH SOME 900 MILLION DOLLARS IN OUR OWN EXPORTS, AND WE COULD NOT SEE DIRECT RELEVANCE

OF ANY BRITISH PROBLEM.

6. GALLAGHER THEN SUGGESTED THAT FRENCH VIEW SOYBEAN INITIATIVE AS A DEFENSIVE MANEUVER, ON PRINCIPLE THAT BEST DEFENSE IS A GOOD OFFENSE.

7. COMMENT: WE HAVE MADE APPOINTMENT TO DICUSS SPECIFIC SOYBEAN PROBLEM EARLY NEXT WEEK. GENERAL IRISH ATTITUDE TOWARDS CAP IS CLEARLY NOT PROMISING FOR US INTERESTS. HIGH AGRICULTURAL PRICES HAVE ALWAYS BEEN MAJOR IRISH GOAL IN EC, BUT GALLAGHER'S POSITION SEEMED MORE RIGID THAN ANYTHING WE HAVE HEARD. SORENSON

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